

## **APPENDIX H - GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Access Path** – A narrow pedestrian walkway through the buffer that provides access to the water.

**Coppice** – Trees or shrubs that have grown from sprouts or suckers rather than seed forming a thicket. A coppice usually results from human woodcutting activity.

**Department** – The Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department

**Denitrification** – The process by which denitrifying bacteria convert nitrogen in the form of nitrate to gaseous nitrogen and it is released into the atmosphere. The process requires available carbon, anaerobic conditions alternating with periods of aerobic conditions, a high water table and healthy populations of denitrifying bacteria. It is an important means of removing nitrogen from the riparian area.

**Establishment** - In reference to a buffer, establishment occurs when there is no buffer in existence.

**Groundwater** – Water within the earth that supplies wells and springs and contributes to surface waters.

**Humus** – Fine organic matter in soil, produced by the decomposition of plant and animal material

**Locality** – A county, city, or town in Tidewater Virginia, as defined in §10.1-2101 of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, or other local government that has developed and implemented a local Bay Act program.

**Nonpoint Source Pollution**- Pollution that occurs from many diffuse sources such as runoff from roads, agricultural fields, lawns and other surfaces or from failed septic tanks..

**Noxious Weed** – Any invasive species that has gotten out of control and has become harmful to the health and survival of the existing woody vegetation in the buffer.

**Passive Recreation** - non-organized, non-motorized activities including but not limited to walking, bike riding, picnicking, hiking, sun bathing, and wildlife viewing. Passive recreation does not include obtrusive activities that have significant adverse impacts to natural, cultural, open space, or agricultural values

**Regulations** - The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations (§9VAC 10-20-10 et seq.)

**Resource Protection Area (RPA)** – The component of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area (CBPA) comprised of lands adjacent to water bodies with perennial flow that have an intrinsic water quality value due to the ecological and biological processes they perform or are sensitive to impacts which may result in significant degradation to the quality of state waters. The 100-foot wide buffer area is one component of a RPA.

**Replacement** - In reference to a buffer, replacemement occurs when part of the buffer vegetation has been removed, such as to create a vista, and woody vegetation has to be put back into the buffer.

**Restoration** - In reference to a buffer, restoration will occur when a large amount of vegetation has been removed, such as to eliminate an invasive species or when a violation has occurred, and the buffer must be restored by the planting of woody vegetation.

**Sheet Flow** - The uniform flow of water across a surface; not channellized.

**Silvicultural Activity** – A forest management activity, including but not limited to the harvesting of timber, the construction of roads and trails for forest management purposes, and the preparation of property for reforestation that are conducted in accordance with the silvicultural best management practices developed and enforced by the State Forester pursuant to § 10.1-1105 of the Code of Virginia and are located on property defined as real estate devoted to forest use under § 58.1-3230 of the Code of Virginia.

**Size Class** - In silviculture: a group of trees all of which are the same general size, age and classification; such as all of the dominant trees in a woodlot, or all of the understory trees.

**Stormwater** – The runoff from a rain event

**Stream Order** – A numerical system used to designate the size and relative position of a stream or stream segment within the hierarchy of streams in a drainage basin from headwater to river mouth.

**Trophic Layer, trophic level** – A layer or level of vegetation sharing similar characteristics such as size: i.e. the canopy layer, the understory layer, shrub/sapling layer or the groundcover.